

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2, 6, 8, 9 and 30-33 are pending in this application, and stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 2, 8 and 9 are amended, and claim 33 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action indicates that the preamble of claim 9 is unclear.

The preamble of claim 9 has been amended to read, e.g., “A computer readable medium ... for causing a computer to operate the following means included in said computer...”

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,172 to Kubota et al. (“Kubota”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,271,841 to Tsujimoto (“Tsujimoto”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,058,694 to DeBonet et al. (“DeBonet”). Claims 30-33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Tsujimoto and DeBonet, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,072,932 to Stahl (“Stahl”).

As indicated above, claim 33 has been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection directed to this claim moot.

Claims 2, 8 and 9 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining whether or not degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information which is to be outputted next according to the order and retained by said news management means ...

when the determining means determines that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially,

when the determining means does not determine that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, said news management means classifies the fresh news information and retains the fresh news information, and

said display means displays a caster animation selected from among different caster animations according to the genre of the news information outputted by said voice output means and whether or not the outputted news information is the fresh news information outputted preferentially.

Other amended claims (i.e., claims 8 and 9) recite similar features to claim 2 as described above. Support for the amendment may be found through the specification as originally filed including, e.g., the flow chart as shown in Fig. 5.

The present invention, as featured in, e.g., amended claim 1, compares the degree of importance between the fresh news information and the retained news information which is scheduled to be outputted next. When the degree of importance of the fresh news information is higher than the retained news information to be outputted next, the fresh news information is preferentially outputted even if there is other retained news information whose degree of importance is higher than that of the fresh news information. When the degree of importance of the fresh news information is not higher than the retained news information to be outputted next, the fresh news

information is classified and retained. The fresh news will be outputted in the predetermined order based on the genre. Also, with the function of the display means, a user can easily understand the genre of the news information and whether or not the outputted news information is the fresh news outputted preferentially.

Kubota discloses an information display method of transmitting, receiving, recording and displaying predetermined information (e.g., multimedia news articles) in which only a predetermined number of predetermined ones of the titles are designated and the designated information is automatically and sequentially displayed. Tsujimoto discloses an information processor that changes a display in response to an input audio signal. DeBonet discloses a method for comparing two trinary logic representations in the process of customizing radio broadcasting.

However, none of the references teaches the aspects of the present invention as discussed above. For example, Kubota merely teaches that when it is instructed to display the previous or subsequent information, more detailed information, or titles of the information that is being displayed at present, such information or titles are displayed and, after that, the apparatus is returned to the state in which the designated information is automatically and sequentially displayed. In Tsujimoto, a comparator continuously compares information such as "Next, we will have the weather forecast . . ." contained in the voice with another information like "weather" prescribed by an operator, while a human voice reporting an item of news is being output. DeBonet compares the first, second, third, and fourth data structures using bit-wise binary operations to determine whether the first set of known properties are wanted as a target set of properties.

Stahl, cited as disclosing notification means that allows users to select how they prefer to receive the news content, also fails to teach the present invention as discussed above.

Accordingly, each of claims 2, 8 and 9 as amended is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Kubota, Tsujimoto, DeBonet and Stahl), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Also, Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

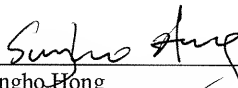
A petition for a two-month extension of time along with the associated fee is enclosed, extending the date for responding until November 1, 2007. Should an additional extension of time be required to render this paper timely filed, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any other fees necessitated by this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4775). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: November 1, 2007

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